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Rice Recall Update As FDA Sets Risk Level

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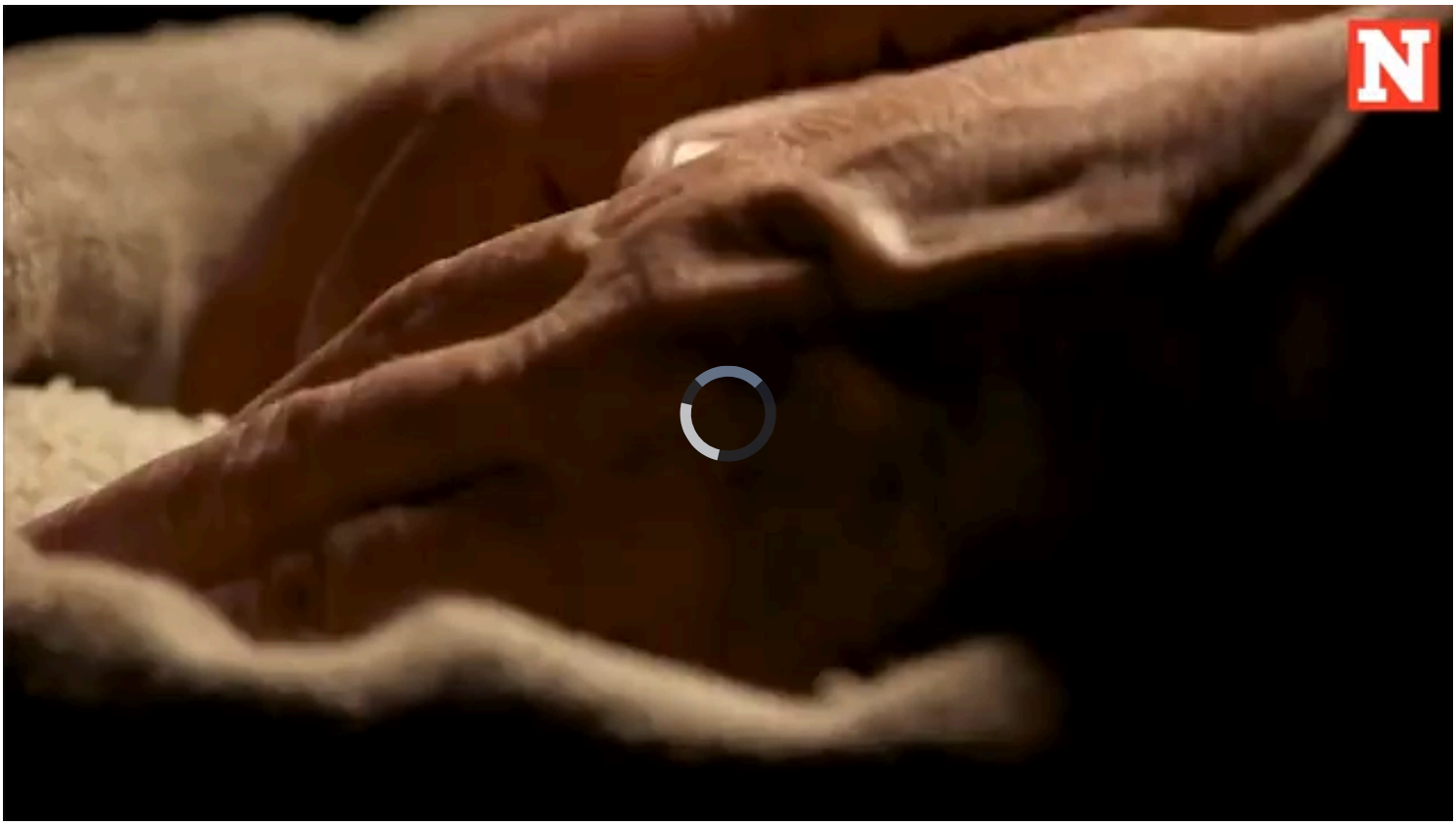

By Giulia Carbonaro
US News Reporter

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one of its rice bags as Class II, indicating that the consumption of the affected product might cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences.

Wehah Farms, a company headquartered in Richvale, California, initiated a voluntary recall of 4,600 cases of its Lundberg Family Farms Sustainable Wild Blend Gourmet Rice on May 10. According to the company, the 4,600 cases—which contain six 1lb poly bags each—may have been contaminated with a "foreign object that appears to be of rodent origin."

The bags contain a mixture of black, brown, red and wild rice and are sold at a retail price of $5.99. According to an FDA report, the recall is ongoing.

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Mix of white, red and black rice. An earlier recall of bags of rice from California-based Wehah Farms has now been labeled as a Class II recall by the Food and Drugs Administration. **GETTY IMAGES**

The affected products have the lot code 231004 with a best-before date of October 4, 2024. The rice bags were distributed in California, Oregon, Wisconsin, Maine, Florida, Arizona and New Hampshire. According to a report from the FDA, eight customers, one wholesale dealer, four distributors and three retailers received the recall product.

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Several weeks can pass between the moment a company initiates a recall and the time the FDA decides how to classify that food recall. In this case, the FDA only identified the Wehah Farms' rice recall as Class II on July 17.

The agency has three classifications for food recalls. Class III is given when consumption or exposure to the recalled product is unlikely to cause adverse health consequences. Class II indicates that the probability of suffering serious adverse health

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exposure to the affected product can cause "serious adverse health consequences or death."

Newsweek contacted Lundberg Family Farms for comment by email on Wednesday morning outside of standard working hours.

It's unclear how the rice bags got to be contaminated by rodents, and the FDA report doesn't clarify. A representative of Lundberg Family Farms told the website Health that the recall was motivated by an "abundance of caution" and that "no illnesses have been reported from the consumption of the affected product."

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The FDA recommends throwing away any food that has been exposed to rats, mice and other rodents, as eating it or drinking it can make "you or your family members sick." If you're in possession of one of the recalled bags of rice from the California-based company, you should contact their retailer for a refund.

No other rice product from Lundberg Family Farms was affected by the recall.

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